

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2019

5:00pm

2nd Floor Cabinet Room
The Townsend Building
401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901

Members Present: Nina Lou Bunting; Vincent Lofink; Dorcas Olatunji; Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.; Wali Rushdan II, and Whitney Sweeney.

Members Absent: Candice Fifer and Dr. Audrey Noble.

Others Present: Rae Mims, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Dr. Susan Bunting, SBE Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education (DDOE); Dr. Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary of Education, DDOE; Emily Cunningham, Chief of Staff, DDOE; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Kathleen Smith, SBE Administrative Assistant; Bukola Olatunji, Parent; Chuck Longfellow, DDOE; Deb Hansen, DDOE; Theresa Bennett, DDOE; Dusty Shockley, DDOE; April McCrae, DDOE; Dr. Linnea Bradshaw, Professional Standards Board (PSB) Executive Director; Sue Smith, PSB; Alyssa Moore, Education Associate, Digital Learning, DDOE; Tammy Croce, DASA; Kendall Massett, DCSN; Jason Peel, Milford School District; Victoria Willard, Parent; Deb Judy, Smyrna School District; Kevin Fitzgerald, Caesar Rodney School District; Sherry Kijowski, Caesar Rodney High School (CRHS); Peggie Birch, CRHS; Sara Noor, CRHS; Sophia Weldin, CRHS; Zaria Hathorn, Student; Hailey Willard, Student; Chavez Eaton, Citizen.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order:

Ms. Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call of State Board Members

Ms. Smith conducted roll call for the meeting with six members present (Bunting, Lofink, Olatunji, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the October 24, 2019 agenda as presented. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

D. Approval of September 19, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Rev. Powell to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes as presented. Ms. Bunting and Ms. Sweeney were absent for

the September meeting and abstained from the vote. There was a lack of quorum necessary to approve these minutes. This item will be addressed at a future meeting.

E. Approval of October 8, 2019 Professional Learning Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the October 8, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (4 Yes to 0 No to 1 Abstention- Bunting, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney. Rev. Powell abstained).

II. State Board Business

A. Recognition of Delaware Students Zaria Hathorn and Hailey Willard

The Board recognized Zaria Hathorn and Hailey Willard by presenting them with State Board of Education Order of Excellence for their outstanding support toward the vision and mission of the State Board of Education and for their contributions to their community and Delaware education.

B. Committee Reports

1. Committee and Meeting Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Ms. Sweeney briefed the Board on a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) project opportunity. She reported her participation in the State Teacher of the Year dinner, the Charter School Financial Framework Committee, and meetings and conversations regarding the Redding Consortium. Ms. Olatunji shared observations after attending Carrie Downie Elementary School as Principal for A Day. Mr. Rushdan attended the Redding Consortium meeting. Ms. Bunting attended the State Teacher of the Year Dinner. Mr. Lofink attended the Redding Consortium, spoke with high school students at a CTE workshop, participated in the CTE Committee meetings on October 9th and 23rd, and attended a discussion at Rodel on microbadging. Rev. Powell attended a national Perkins V Conference and a Christina School District Board meeting.

2. CTE Committee Update

Ms. Sweeney referenced Mr. Rhine's presentation at the earlier Professional Learning Meeting. Ms. Ahner shared information regarding the CTE Committee, stakeholder engagement, and alignment with the Delaware Workforce Development Board on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Board members asked questions regarding stakeholder engagement.

C. Delaware State Board of Education Strategic Plan (For Action)

Ms. Sweeney provided an overview of the priorities and the strategic plan. She noted that language on stakeholder engagement has been added to reflect Ms. Olatunji's input.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the State Board of Education's strategic plan. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

D. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office, including the P-20 Council meeting and the P-20 Council's Early Literacy Subcommittee. She reported that she and Ms. Fifer attended the ESSA Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Ahner and Dr. Noble attended the NASBE Conference, where Delaware was recognized for having a student representative on the Board. Board members asked if there was a common theme on topics of discussion/concern among the states.

III. Secretary's Report

A. Secretary's Report

Dr. Susan Bunting provided her report, details of which have been posted online. Board members asked questions about the Delaware Autism Program.

B. Report Card and Accountability Update

Dr. Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary, DDOE, presented an update on Department's report cards. The accountability information was updated on October 17. There were improvements for accessibility with the addition of Chinese, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Hindi translations. The snapshot page has a downloadable option to print. New information was added on college and career readiness, educator information, and proficiency data. The Board asked about what type of teacher data is available to help inform parents and families and whether paraprofessional data is available.

IV. Presentations

A. Caesar Rodney School District Presentation

Ms. Sweeney welcomed Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent, Caesar Rodney School District; Dr. Sherry Kijowski, Principal of Caesar Rodney High School (CRHS); Ms. Peggie Birch, CRHS and Delaware's 2019 STEM Educator of the Year; Ms. Sarah Noor, CRHS senior, and Ms. Sophia Weldin, CRHS senior.

The presenters spoke about computer science in the Caesar Rodney School District. They shared information regarding the Computer Science pathway and efforts to increase representation of female students. The presenters spoke about initiatives underway in the district, including "Go Red for STEM", "Coding with Kindergarteners", "Bring a Friend to Code Day", "Girls Who Code", elementary STEM day, a partnership with the National Center for Women in Technology, the DigiGirlz event, and the Girls Go CyberStart competition.

Board members asked how the district provides access and opportunity to female students in computer science and also about industry connections and connections to post-secondary programs.

B. Science and Social Studies Assessment Performance Levels

Theresa Bennett, Director of Office of Assessment, DDOE; April McCrae, Education Association for Science Assessment & STEM, DDOE; and Dusty Shockley, Education Associate, Social Studies Curriculum and Assessment, DDOE explained the process for

determining the proposed performance levels for the science and social studies assessments, including the standard-setting method and establishment of recommended achievement levels. Board members asked about the percentages of students on Levels 1 and 2 and theories as to why many students fall within these achievement levels, specifically for grades 5 and 8. Board members asked if students were engaged or provided feedback on the assessment, and if schools have considered adjusting the curriculum to align with the standards. Board members inquired about the process of ensuring that there is no cultural or ethnic bias in the assessments and asked questions to clarify the sequence of high school social studies subjects related to what the assessment covers.

Ms. Sweeney opened the floor to public comment. No public comments were received.

A motion was made by Ms. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the cut scores for the science assessments. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

A motion was made by Ms. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the cut scores for the social studies assessments. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

C. Transportation Formula Update

Ms. Sweeney shared that through conversations with Ms. Mims and the Department of Education it was determined that the State Board of Education is not responsible for approving transportation regulations or the transportation formula. No discussion was held.

V. Charter Schools

A. Charter Schools Update

Dr. Chuck Longfellow, Associate Secretary of Operations Support, DDOE, shared a summary of the monthly report from Odyssey Charter School. The Board asked about an anticipated date by which the audit will be completed, the proposed bylaw changes, and the repayment of state funds in relation to the charter renewal.

Dr. Longfellow provided an update on the location for ASPIRA's high school. Board members thanked the Department of Education for its thoughtfulness in considering the context and history in determining a path forward on this matter.

B. Charter School Renewals

Ms. Sweeney shared that Mr. Rushdan and Dr. Noble will represent the Board at the upcoming Charter School Accountability Committee meetings. The information will be brought before the Board in December, and the Board's decision will be based on the record that is presented. Ms. Ahner oriented the Board as to where the information can be found on the DDOE website. Board members were asked to share questions regarding the record with Ms. Ahner or at the November State Board of Education meeting.

VI. Regulations

A. PSB Regulations for Discussion and Action

1. Regulation 1501 – Knowledge, Skills, and Responsibility Based Salary Supplements

Ms. Sweeney welcomed Dr. Linnea Bradshaw, Executive Director of Professional Standards Board (PSB), along with Ms. Sue Smith, PSB Member, and Alyssa Moore, Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee (PDACC) co-chair, who were available to answer questions regarding Regulation 1501. Ms. Smith explained the process on how the PSB voted to propose the regulation.

Board members asked questions about salary supplements for teachers who earn national certification and then become administrators, about requirements in state code, and if there are factors impacting the timeline of the adoption of this regulation.

A motion was made by Ms. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Lofink to table Regulation 1501 until further information is provided. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

2. Regulation 1549 – Dance Teacher

Ms. Sweeney welcomed Ms. Smith, Ms. Bradshaw, and Ms. Deb Hansen, Education Associate for Visual and Performing Arts, DDOE, to discuss regulations 1549, 1558, 1560, and 1563.

Board members asked about the current practice for second certifications for other subjects and the PSB's interest in making similar changes to other certification regulations moving forward. Board members asked about practices in surrounding states, current coursework opportunities available in the state to meet the 15 credit requirement, how many current teachers would be impacted, and if there can be a consideration for prior experience. The Board requested clarification on what the regulation currently requires. The Board discussed the potential positive and negative impacts of this regulation and asked if it would be possible to incorporate a phase-in period. Board members also asked if there would be resources to support this change.

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Ms. Bunting to table Regulation 1549 until further information is provided. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

3. Regulation 1558 – Theater Teacher

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Ms. Bunting to table Regulation 1558 until further information is provided. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

4. Regulation 1560 – Art Teacher

A motion was made by Ms. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Lofink to table Regulation 1560 until further information is provided. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

5. Regulation 1563

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Powell to table Regulation 1563 until further information is provided. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

6. Regulation 1522 – Elementary School Counselor

This regulation has been posted for public comment. Persons wishing to present their views regarding this regulation may do so in writing on or before November 1, 2019 to the PSB.

7. Regulation 1545 – Secondary School Counselor

This regulation has been posted for public comment. Persons wishing to present their views regarding this regulation may do so in writing on or before November 1, 2019 to the PSB.

B. Department of Education Regulations

1. Regulation 902 – Gifted or Talented Education Plan

This regulation has been posted for public comment. Persons wishing to present their views regarding this regulation may do so in writing on or before November 4, 2019 to the DDOE.

C. Public Comment on Regulations

No public comments were received.

VI. Formal Public Comment

No public comment was received.

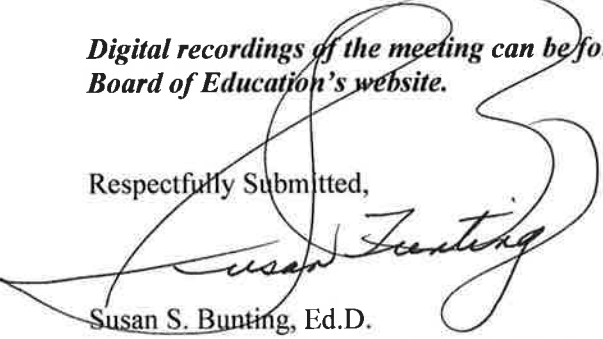
VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Lofink, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Digital recordings of the meeting can be found in the “audio recordings” section of the State Board of Education’s website.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education